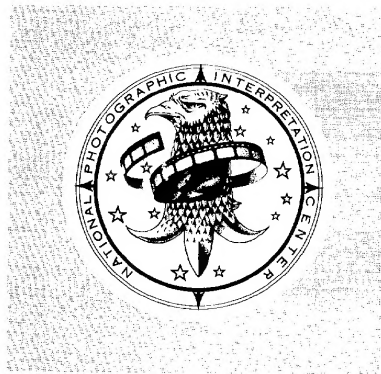


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**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

**CONTINUING ROAD CONSTRUCTION
SOUTHERN LAOTIAN PANHANDLE**

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NPIC/R-28/70

MAY 1970

W A R N I N G

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NPIC/R-28/70

CONTINUING ROAD CONSTRUCTION, SOUTHERN LAOTIAN PANHANDLE

ABSTRACT

The Communists are continuing to build and reactivate roads in the southern Laotian Panhandle. Photography covering the 10-day period between [REDACTED] revealed the reactivation of 70 nautical miles (nm) of roads and the construction of 57 nm of new roads.

This report contains a basic description of each new or reactivated road and a map depicting the road alignments.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Fifty-seven nautical miles (nm) of new road construction and 70 nm of reactivated roads were identified in the southern Laotian Panhandle on photography covering the 10-day period between [REDACTED] (Figure 1). The new construction effort was concentrated on parallel roads and the extension of two routes in South Vietnam south of the Demilitarized Zone. Major reactivation occurred along Route 966 between Chavane and the border and Laos Route 922/8VN948 into the A Shau Valley. New road construction during the 1969-1970 dry season now totals 219 nm (187 nm of which are serviceable). The total logistics network has increased to 1,760 nm.

PARALLEL ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Most of the 36.4 nm of newly identified parallel road is located along the major logistics network (Routes 92 and 914) between Sepone and Chavane. A parallel road network now extends along approximately 130 nm of this 140-nm system.

Route 922, portions of which were previously utilized as access roads to a large military area north of the Route 92/922 junction, has been graded and partially realigned. This improved road combines with a new short connecting road to the Route 92/9223 bypass to provide a dual road capability over 5.2 nm of Route 92/922.

A new 6.3-nm parallel road is in the early stage of construction north of Route 922. Together with Routes 9221, 9222, and 9223, this road will provide a dual road capability over all but 8 nm of the 31.5-nm-long Route 922.

Three additional short segments of new road, totalling 12.9 nm, parallel Routes 92, 110, 917, and a Route 92 bypass.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION, SOUTH VIETNAM

Construction has been renewed on South Vietnam Routes 616 and 922. Intermittent construction extends 6 nm east from the serviceable terminus of Route 616, along the Laos border, to a point 3.3 nm west of the Da Krong River.

Route 9222, which was extended across the border from Laos Route 9221 during the 1968-1969 dry season, now extends an additional 7.8 nm along the Da Krong River. Construction continues an additional 2.5 nm south-southeast to connect with a Route 948 bypass, north of the A Shau Valley.

NEW TRANSHIPMENT POINT ACCESS ROAD, LAOS

A new 4-nm road extends from the Route 96 parallel road to a point near the confluence of the Xe Kong and Houay Eam rivers. This road could support water-borne logistics on the Xe Kong and supplant the apparently abandoned Route 964 farther south.

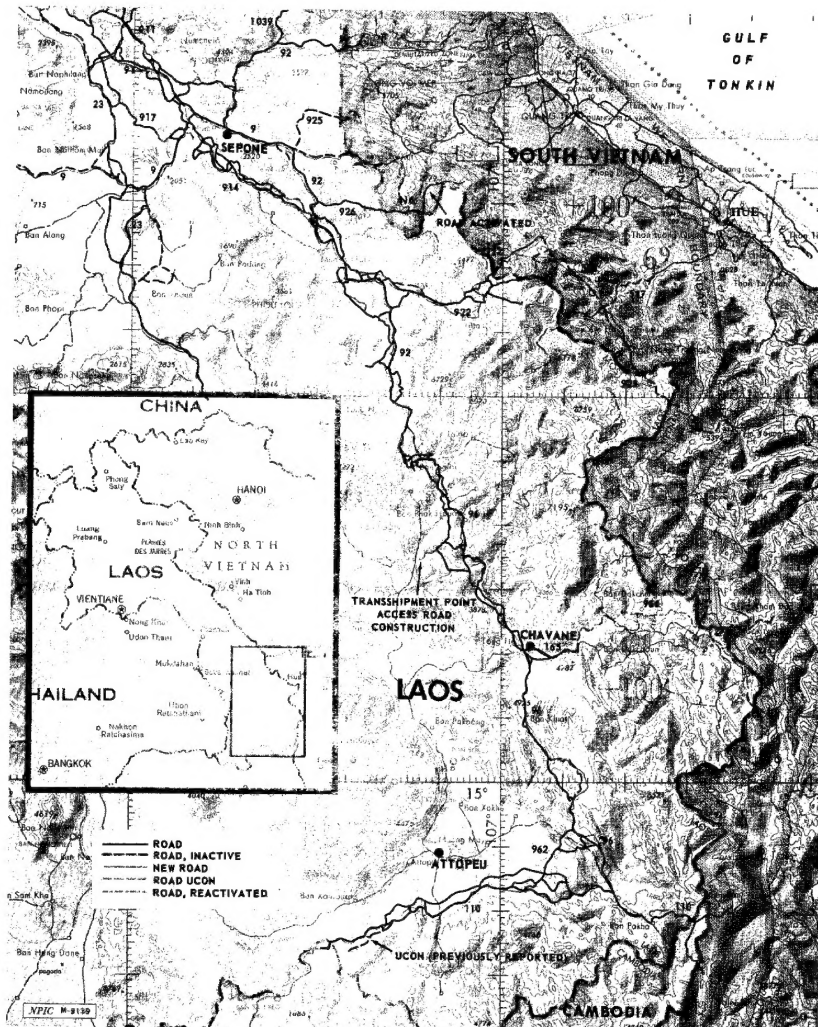


FIGURE 1. ROAD NETWORK, SOUTHERN LAOS

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REACTIVATED ROADS

Approximately 70 nm of the reactivated roads include portions of South Vietnam Routes 616 and 548 and Laos Routes 92, 922 and 966. The reactivation of Route 966 reopens most of the southern panhandle network.

Approximately 240 nm of roads remain in disuse in Laos, including portions of Routes 8, 9, 12, 23, 81, 121, 235, 923, 925, and 964. Roads in South Vietnam which are still in disuse include portions of Routes 547, 548, and 614.

REFERENCES

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MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC. Special SEA Operational Navigation Chart, Sheet 1, 1st ed., Jun 68, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

REQUIREMENT

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